

# Honeybourne Primary Academy

School Street,  
Honeybourne,  
Worcestershire,  
WR11 7PJ



Headteacher: Mrs Elaine D Huntington, B.Ed., MA, NPQH

Dear Parents

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

## SCHOOL CLOSURE – HEADTEACHER UPDATE FOR PARENTS

Over the last two weeks, I have been cheered and delighted to receive so many positive comments from you all, in how well your children are responding to the home-schooling situation we are in, and at the links and support you are getting from our staff. The staff have shared your good news stories and it is great to hear that some of you have managed to send work back to the staff. Keep it coming! 😊

At the time of writing, I have no further idea on the timescale for our exceptional closure and therefore, I would ask you all to brace yourselves for a few more weeks of this. Today we would have been break up for Easter and school would normally be closed. We are not planning on opening our school after Easter on the planned date for business as usual, and the current restrictions will remain in place. I am therefore, asking the staff to send you more of a structure to the learning at home for after the Easter holiday. Where your home-schooling is working, please stick with it. You may wish to continue with some structure over the Easter period, so continue to use the activities posted on your child's class webpage. This will be updated regularly.

Additional learning information, paper and printed resources can be made available from school for you to collect on request. However, please give us some notice, as the staff on the rota will have to manage the children first. I will come into school if I can to prepare packs if necessary.

Our school will continue to offer a care provision over the Easter holidays, apart from the Bank holidays, to those of you needing a school place. This will be reviewed as we get more information about how the current situation is being dealt with. Please remember to wash your child's clothes after each day, and it is recommended that they shower on their return home. They will have washed their hands on leaving school. Please keep us up to date on when you need a place and if details change. I am putting together a staff rota dependent on which and how many children we have in school. I don't want to call staff in unnecessarily. The children are enjoying their time in school, although it is quite different. However like everyone, a little more structure may help after this week.

Pupils entitled to (income related) free school meals, (not the universal infant free school meals), should have had contact from a company providing vouchers. This started earlier this week. If you haven't had anything, please be patient, I understand some are taking a while but they will get to you. You will receive £3 per day per

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Honeybourne Primary Academy is a mixed community school for 4-11 year old pupils and Nursery for 2-4 year olds.

Trading name for invoices: Honeybourne First School Academy

child, which is more than the usual rate, simply due to the fact that you cannot get the same economies of scale if you are cooking only for one or a small number. These vouchers will continue through the Easter Holiday period. More families are becoming eligible for free school meals so please refer to our newsletter, send out earlier today, for details of how to apply if you think you are entitled.

Other hardship: please let the school know if you are struggling in any way, during this isolating period. We are only a school but have many resources and skills we can share and are happy to do so. In addition, the Honeybourne Community Response team is working flat out to support local people, with food if funds are low, collections/prescriptions, shopping or just a friendly chat to keep you going. Please let me know and I can put you in touch with someone locally if you need any support. Please use my email address:

[head@honeybourne.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@honeybourne.worcs.sch.uk)

Creativity is abound at the moment, with companies normally producing formula 1 equipment, now making life saving equipment and our wonderful parent body now becoming the teachers! To keep you all busy and give you something different to check your creativity on, take a look at the link below:

<https://worcesterwolves.org/2020/03/26/design-a-t-shirt/>

Our first two, of many more weeks of restrictions, have now been completed and you have all shown your super skills and stepped up to your responsibilities as have our staff. I am very aware that there may be some specialist advice needed in the coming weeks and so urge parents to keep in touch with their class teaching staff, with me, and each other. I still have a wealth of information and services that I can sign post you to should you need support that you don't normally access. Phone support is something that we can provide easily so please make use of it and let us know if you want a chat. The staff are ringing round as a matter of course, so you may have already had a chat with our staff. ☺

Whilst it is very hard socially, please continue to keep everyone safe, by following the government guidance. It is hard to say no to a child who just wants to go and play with his/her friends, but we are about keeping the NHS focused on dealing with the current crisis; don't add to their load by putting anyone at risk unnecessarily. Stay at home, only go out if absolutely necessary and then keep a social distance of 2 metres or more. Remember, soap is one of our biggest weapons, so use it as often as you can!

Take great care, let's hope the promise of sunshine at the weekend, brings us new hope and strength to get through the tough times ahead.

I remain yours sincerely,

Elaine Huntington  
HEADTEACHER

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